

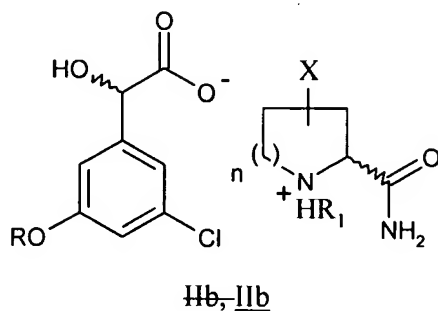
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in this application.

Listing of the Claims:

Claims 1-8 (cancelled)

Claim 9 (currently amended): A (*R*)/(*D*) or (*S*)/(*L*) mandelic acid/cyclic amide salt having the formula **IIb**



wherein

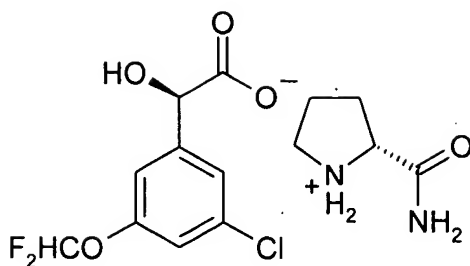
R is selected from the group consisting of CHF₂, H, C₁₋₆ alkyl, CH₂F, CHCl₂ and CCIF₂;

n is 0, 1 or 2;

R₁ is H or C₁₋₆ alkyl; and

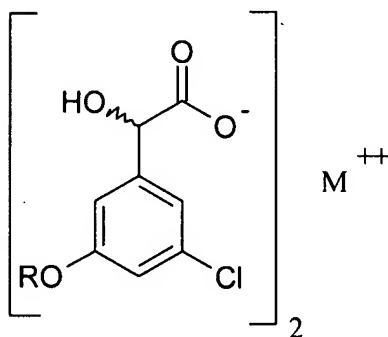
X is H, halo or C₁₋₆ alkyl.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The (*R*)/(*D*) mandelic acid/cyclic amide salt according to claim 9, which is of formula **VI**



VI

Claim 11 (currently amended): A metal salt of a mandelic acid of formula **Ia**

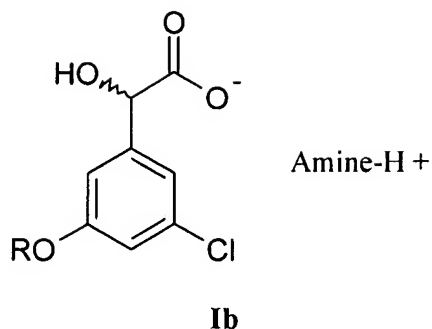
**Ia**

wherein

R is selected from the group consisting of CHF₂, H, C₁₋₆ alkyl, CH₂F, CHCl₂ and CClF₂; and
M is a metal ion selected from the group consisting of calcium, zinc and magnesium.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The metal salt, according to claim 11, wherein the mandelic acid of formula **Ia** is the (*R*)-mandelic acid or the (*S*)-mandelic acid.

Claim 13 (currently amended): An amine salt of a mandelic acid of ~~formula Ia;~~ formula Ib



wherein

R is selected from the group consisting of CHF₂, H, C₁₋₆ alkyl, CH₂F, CHCl₂ and CClF₂; and the amine is selected from the group consisting of triethanolamine, 4-hydroxy-2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidine, piperazine, 1,4-dimethylpiperazine, 2,4,6-trimethylpyridine, 4-hydroxy-1,2,2,6,6-pentamethylpiperidine and dicyclohexylamine.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The amine salt according to claim 10, wherein

the mandelic acid of formula **Ib** is the (*R*)- or (*S*)-mandelic acid, and the amine is selected from the group consisting of triethanolamine, 4-hydroxy-2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidine, piperazine, 1,4-dimethylpiperazine, 2,4,6-trimethylpyridine and 4-hydroxy-1,2,2,6,6-pentamethylpiperidine.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The amine salt according to claim 13 or claim 14, wherein the mandelic acid of formula **Ib** is the (*R*)-mandelic acid, and the amine is triethanolamine.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The salt according to any one of claims 9, 11 and 13 wherein the mandelic acid is (*R*)-3-chloro-5-difluoro-methoxy mandelic acid ((*2R*)-[3-chloro-5-(difluoromethoxy)phenyl]-(hydroxy)acetic acid).